

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-03 INR-10 IO-03 L-02 NSF-01

NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 SCI-03 SS-14 SP-02

FEAE-00 OIC-01 DRC-01 /075 W
----- 058942

R 091736Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5556

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DEPT PASS EPA FOR ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR GREEN,
AEC FOR FRIEDMAN AND LAFLEUR

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, GW, TECH

SUBJECT: US/FRG ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT - TISSUE BANK
PROJECT, OFFSET AND REACTOR SAFETY

REF: (A) STATE 218322, (B) STATE 218323, (C) ZAGREB 0919

(D) BONN 14778, (E) BONN 15769, (F) BONN 15647

1. SUMMARY: DR. WISER, EPA, AND EMBASSY'S S&T COUNSELOR
MET WITH GROUP OF GERMAN SPECIALISTS FOR PRELIMINARY
DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE US/FRG COOPERATION IN DEVELOP-
MENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL TISSUE BANK. GROUP AGREED THIS
COOPERATIVE PROJECT IS PROMISING AND WORTHY OF FURTHER
STUDY. REPRESENTATIVES OF FRG MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND
TECHNOLOGY (BMFT) ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER THIS POSSIBLE
PROJECT WITHIN CONTEXT OF US/FRG ENVIRONMENTAL
AGREEMENT BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS AND OTHER SIMILAR
RESEARCH PROJECTS MUST NOT RPT NOT BE SUBORDINATED TO
THE FRG MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AS "COORDINATOR" OF SUBJECT
AGREEMENT. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT US WORK WITHIN FRG
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BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURE TO AVOID DELAY IN COOPERATIVE

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY.

2. GROUP ALSO INCLUDED PROFESSOR COULSTON, ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE; PROFESSOR KORTE, INSTITUTE FOR ECOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, SOCIETY FOR RADIATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH (GSF); DR. HANS BRIESKORN, CHIEF OF BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY AND MEDICINE, FRG MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (BMFT) AS WELL AS ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL FROM GSF.

3. CONCEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL TISSUE (OR SPECIMEN) BANK WAS REVIEWED BY AMERICAN AND GERMAN PARTICIPANTS WHO AGREED THAT FURTHER STUDY WOULD BE NEEDED AND THAT THIS COOPERATIVE PROJECT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE. GSF AGREED TO PREPARE TENTATIVE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN CONSULTATION WITH PROFESSOR COULSTON. PROPOSAL WOULD DESCRIBE INITIAL STEPS IN SOME DETAIL AND SKETCH LONGER RANGE PROGRAM IN OUTLINE FORM. THIS DRAFT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ASAP, NO LATER THAN EARLY NOVEMBER FOR CONSIDERATION BY BMFT AND BY EPA. BRIESKORN IMPLIED THAT BMFT WOULD WISH TO MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO GSF BEFORE END OF CURRENT CALENDAR (I.E. FRG FISCAL) YEAR.

4. BRIESKORN, AS BMFT REP, STATED THAT HIS MINISTRY HAS MADE POLICY DECISION THAT THIS PROJECT WOULD RECEIVE PRIORITY WITHIN BMFT ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS. BMFT WOULD NEED RECEIVE ONLY BRIEF PROJECT PROPOSAL FROM GSF TO OUTLINE THE PROGRAM, ITS COSTS AND THE EXTENT OF US PARTICIPATION. HE IMPLIED THAT BMFT WAS READY TO FINANCE THIS NEW PROJECT, INCLUDING A CONTRIBUTION TO HELP ESTABLISH THE TISSUE BANK IN THE US, ON A LEVEL PERHAPS HIGHER THAN JUSTIFIED BY PRESENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW-HOW. HE FORESAW GSF IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH RELEVANT US SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS AS PROGRAM PROCEEDED. U.S. AND FRG GOVERNMENTS WOULD ENDORSE PROGRAM AT AN APPROPRIATE STAGE BY AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN BMFT AND EPA. EMBASSY NOTE: THIS TISSUE BANK PROJECT IS POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR FUNDING UNDER OFFSET PROGRAM. (SEE PARA 6, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REF D.) THIS FACT MAY EXPLAIN BRIESKORN'S SENSE OF URGENCY AND DESIRE TO COMMIT FUNDS BEFORE END CY 1974.

5. AS INSTRUCTED IN REFS A AND B, BOTH WISER AND EMBASSY S&T COUNSELOR EMPHASIZED THAT ENVIRONMENTAL TISSUE BANK PROJECT SHOULD FALL WITHIN CONTEXT OF US-FRG ENVIRONMENTAL BILATERAL. BMFT RESPONSE TO THESE INTERVENTIONS WAS LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC. CONTACTS

ON A MORE PERSONAL LEVEL, AND THE NEGOTIATING HISTORY OF THE US-FRG ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, SHED SOME ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON THIS POINT. BRIEFLY, SUBJECT AGREEMENT WAS NEGOTIATED AT GOVERNMENT-GOVERNMENT LEVEL AT FRG INSISTENCE. SOME AGENCIES IN BOTH USG AND FRG HAD PROBLEMS WITH THIS CONCEPT. THE BMFT

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5557

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AGREED ONLY RELUCTANTLY THAT "ENVIRONMENTAL" ASPECTS OF ITS RESEARCH PROGRAMS WOULD FALL UNDER THE AGREEMENT WHEN US-FRG COOPERATION WAS INVOLVED. IN BMFT VIEW, THE "TISSUE BANK" MAY BE CONSIDERED PART OF US-FRG COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND THUS WITHIN CONCEPT OF SUBJECT AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, BMFT BELIEVES THAT "TISSUE BANK" AND SEVERAL OF THE MINISTRY'S RELATED PROJECTS ALSO INVOLVE MEDICAL/ ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH AS DISTINGUISHED FROM "ENVIRONMENTAL" PROGRAMS. IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT BMFT WOULD STRONGLY RESIST SUBORDINATION OF ANY PART OF THIS OVERALL PROGRAM TO THE FRG MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, THE "ACTION AGENCY" COORDINATING THE US-FRG

BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT.

6. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE NECESSARY FOR US TO PUSH THIS QUESTION TO THE POINT OF EMBARRASSMENT OR DELAY IN THE PROGRAM OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. WE RECOMMEND THAT, FOR THE RECORD, THE "TISSUE BANK" AND ANY OTHER US COOPERATIVE "ENVIRONMENTAL" PROGRAMS WITH GERMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, BE LISTED WITHIN THE OVERALL PROGRAM COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT EPA SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE RESPONSIBLE FRG MINISTRY OR ORGANIZATION IN DEVELOPING AND MANAGING THESE PROGRAMS. THE AGREEMENT DOES PROVIDE FOR SEPARATE AGREEMENTS, AND EVEN FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL "COORDINATORS" BY EITHER PARTY, IF NECESSARY. THE EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, BE PLEASED TO ADVISE AND ASSIST IN DEVELOPING THIS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MOST EFFICIENTLY WITHIN THE FRG BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURE WITH DUE REGARD FOR GERMAN SENSITIVITIES. WE FORESEE NO PROBLEM IN DOING SO. THE "ARRANGEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION" NOW BEING NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE USAEC AND THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR (BMI), REF E, MIGHT RAISE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE "ADMINISTRATOR" OF THIS "ARRANGEMENT" AND THE "COORDINATOR" OF THE GOVERNMENT-GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT. WE RECOMMEND THAT THIS POSSIBILITY BE REVIEWED BEFORE THIS NEGOTIATION IS COMPLETED AND THE CONTENT AND TITLE OF THE "ARRANGEMENT" APPROVED IN FINAL FORM.
HILLENBRAND

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